

Open Space Board of Trustees motions on e-bikes considered at meeting on Feb. 8, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Consideration of a staff recommendation to the Open Space Board of Trustees on allowing e-biking as a passive recreational use on open space trails of E-Bikes on Open Space (1:30)

Motion (2:22)

Jon Carroll moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to recommend the Boulder City Council to allow class 1 and class 2 e-biking as a passive recreational activity permissible on open space on trails where designated by the City Manager. Michelle Estrella seconded. This motion did not pass; Caroline Miller, Dave Kuntz and Karen Hollweg dissented.

Motion (2:38)

Michelle Estrella moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to recommend that the OSMP Department proceed with the staff preferred alternative to implement this policy by designating and managing the trails in Alternative B - Plains trails located east of Broadway that allow biking, and the Boulder Canyon Trail for e-biking – with the addition of Chapman Drive Trail and Foothills South Trail. Jon Carroll seconded. This motion did not pass; Caroline Miller, Dave Kuntz and Karen Hollweg dissented.

Motion (3:18)

Dave Kuntz moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to recommend to City Council that language in the current code B.R.C. 7-5-25, titled No Electric Assisted Bicycles on Open Space – “no person shall activate the motor of an electric assisted bicycle on any recreational path or trail on open space land as defined in the City Charter Section 170 except where the path or trail has been transferred to a city department pursuant to Charter Section 177, “Disposal of Open Space Land or section 8-8-11 “Transfer of Open Space Lands, B.R.C. 1981. Ordinance Nos. 7941 (2013); 7965 (2014); 8007 (2014); 8447 (2021)” – be repealed and removed from all applicable city ordinances. Karen seconded. Passed three to two. Jon Carroll and Michelle Estrella dissented.

Motion (3:27)

Dave Kuntz moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to recommend that the following language be inserted into B.R.C. 7-5-25, titled “No Electric Assisted Bicycles on open space”:

Electric assisted bicycles are prohibited on Open Space lands as defined in City Charter section 170. Operation of an electric assisted bicycle is not defined as a passive recreational use in Article 12, Sec. 176 (c) of the City Charter.

Caroline Miller seconded. This motion passed three to two; Jon Carroll and Michelle Estrella dissented.

Motion (4:42)

Dave Kuntz moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to recommend to City Council revised language for section 8-3-6 of the BRC – Vehicle Regulation:

- a. No person, other than persons authorized by the city manager, shall:

(7) operate an electric assisted bicycle or other mechanized power assisted vehicle on any Open Space lands as defined in City Charter section 170, except where a multijurisdictional regional trail requiring access to a segment of open space trail to enable connectivity and contiguity and where special designation and enforcement requirements are posted and have been determined necessary to meet land protection, natural resource and visitor management goals.

Caroline Miller seconded. This motion passed three to two; Jon Carroll and Michelle Estrella dissented.